



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: I am inquiring about being a discharge planner. Right now the job is being done by LVN's and RN's and they are thinking of training me, but we are all unclear as to what my scope of practice covers. IE: taking and writing physicians orders for DME? What does my license cover me to do in this area? Can I take an order for a wheelchair, a bedside commode, transportation via ambulance or whatever?

What will it NOT cover?

Response: From a discharge planning perspective, there are no aspects of that job that would be excluded by the Practice Act for a respiratory practitioner. I would commend your facility and your administration for being forward thinking and proactive by including a RCP as part of their discharge planning team. I believe your expertise blends very nicely with the role of the RN's in that department and should prove to be a nice complement to the patient you all will serve.

Reference #: 2005-C-15